



April 2011

**pm J-AIT**  
PRODUCT MANAGER  
JOINT-AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY

# PM J-AIT ITV Operations and Training Newsletter

Check out the **PM J-AIT Web site** at the new URL: <http://www.ait.army.mil> to view the latest PM J-AIT contract(s) for AIT and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) hardware, software, technical engineering services, and maintenance.

## 25<sup>th</sup> ID Movement to Afghanistan

As part of our on-going effort to monitor the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**, we looked at the recent activity at Fort Irwin, California. We found that the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division from Hawaii had 3 movements leaving from National Training Center (NTC) and decided to follow one of the movements to final destination. We chose a unit move going to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Fenty, Afghanistan [determined by the Consignee Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC)] and using the Operation name 3BCT\_OMAN\_2011. The following is our depiction of this movement and some tips on how you can use the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** to follow your own shipments through the logistics pipeline to their final destinations.

To begin our analysis, we selected the **Advanced Search** query on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** under **Track Shipments > RFID Tracking**. In the **Operation** field, we input 3BCT\_OMAN\_2011 and selected tags written from **Current Year to Date** in the **Select a View** drop-down.

For questions or comments, please contact one of the following:

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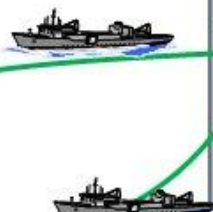
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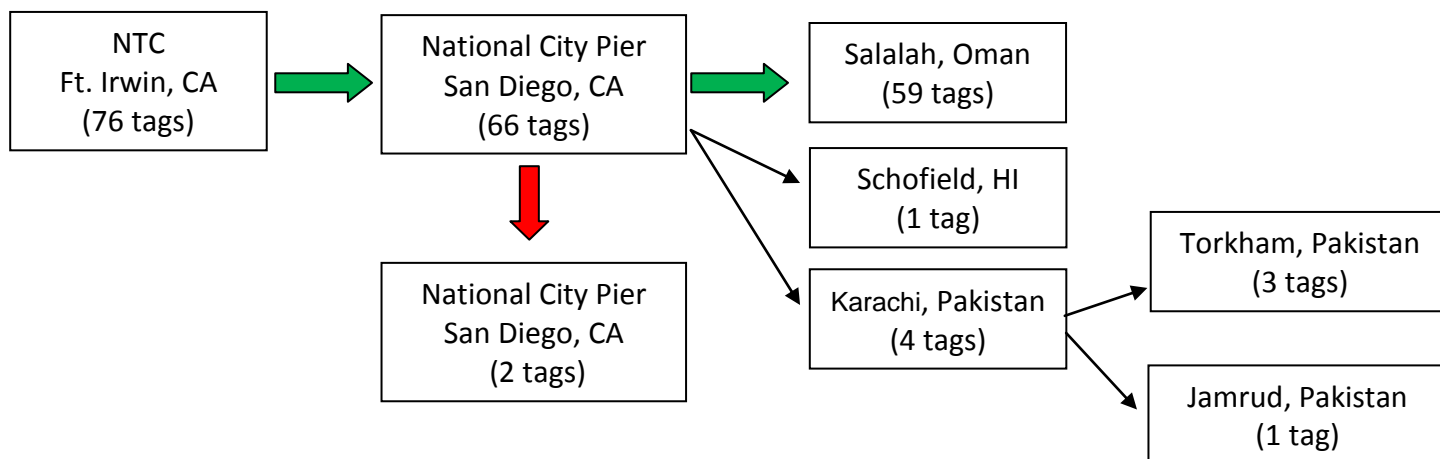
**RF-ITV Training: RF-ITV Global Help Desk**  
[help.rfitv@us.army.mil](mailto:help.rfitv@us.army.mil)  
1 (800) 877-7925 DSN 94 (wait for dial tone then dial 1 (800) 877-7925)

The general tag flow was via ship from the National City Pier in San Diego, California to Salalah, Oman or Karachi, Pakistan. From Oman, the tags left via air to final destination in Afghanistan. From Pakistan, the tags left via ground to final destination in Afghanistan.

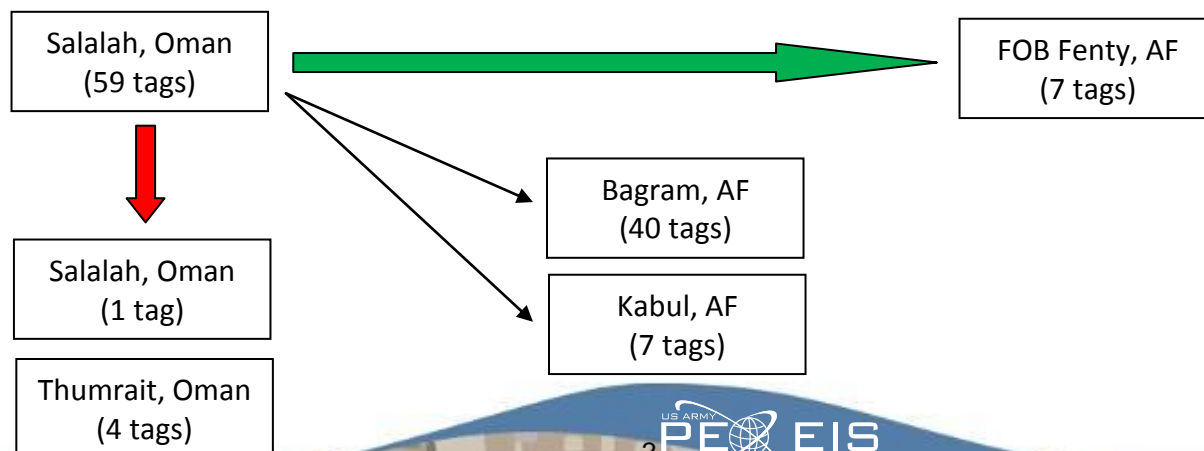


Maps courtesy of Google Maps

The query results identified 76 tags leaving Ft. Irwin via ground transportation to National City Pier in San Diego, California; however only 66 tags were read at National City Pier. Of the 10 tags that were not read at the port, five were never read after they were written and five were last read at Ft. Irwin and showed no further movement according to the data on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**. We cannot determine why these tags stayed at Ft. Irwin. Two tags were last read at the National City Port, and one shipment appeared to return home to Schofield, Hawaii. We cannot determine why this lone tag went to Schofield, Hawaii. Four tags went from the National City Port to Karachi, Pakistan.



Of the 59 tags that arrived at Salalah, Oman, 7 have reached final destination and five were last read in Oman according to data on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**. The remaining 47 were last read at locations listed below and should be considered still enroute:



### ***How can this analysis be applied to tracking your shipments?***

- ✓ It is important to make sure your tags are written with complete and accurate license plate data. Due to the excellent tag writing of the 25<sup>th</sup> ID in the free text field, operation code, and POE/POD fields, we were able to track these shipments. When the quality of the data written to a tag is thorough and accurate, it makes the ability to track and maintain visibility a whole lot easier!
- ✓ If used properly, the **Operation** field can help locate your shipments by correlating/identifying/segregating the grouping of shipments. Be mindful of what's already on the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**. Do a quick search to look at the operation names already in use so you can select one that is unique. This will help you locate and segregate your tags more efficiently. If the intent is for the unit to use a common operation name, make sure it is spelled identically by everyone who writes tags--otherwise another operation name will be created.
- ✓ Just a reminder, the **Consignor** is the unit sending the shipment and the **Consignee** is the unit receiving it. In this analysis, we saw five tags that had the Consignor and Consignee transposed. This may appear on the surface to be a minor problem because most shipments also have an "in the clear" address; however, the automated systems and fixed interrogators that report movement of tagged cargo depend on these addresses being correct. When the two fields are switched, the automated transportation closeout (TK\_) is created as the tagged cargo leaves the shipping site rather than at the arrival site thus creating a totally false arrival report.

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## **For and From the Field**

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### ***ESTABLISHING AN INLAND LOCATION CODE***

If you identify a location that shipments will be moving by ground transportation (either starting or stopping at the site) and an Inland Location Code (ILC) has not yet been established, you can request a code be established for the location.

If you would like to request establishment of a new ILC or have a suggestion for an ILC to be deleted, send an email to [leeerfidtv@conus.army.mil](mailto:leeerfidtv@conus.army.mil) with "ILC Addition/Deletion" in the subject line and provide the following information:

Name:  
Rank/Grade:  
Phone Number:  
Email:  
ILC Location (Country):  
Fort/Camp/Base/Post/Site/FOB:  
Nearest City:

For a complete list of CENTCOM ILCs or all other Theaters, go to:

<http://www.cascom.army.mil/Automation/ITV/> (click on **Inland Location Codes**)

### ***NEW CONSOLIDATED POLICY FOR USE OF ACTIVE RFID TAGS***

A consolidated policy has been established on current RFID requirements for all Forces Command (FORSCOM) elements to ensure in-transit visibility of supplies and equipment during Continental United States (CONUS), Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS), and Combat Training Center movements. The new policy can be downloaded at:

<http://www.cascom.army.mil/Automation/ITV/index.htm>

(Click **Policies/News** > **Use of Active RFID Tags for CONUS and OCONUS Shipments 221335ZMar 11**)

The new one-source directive includes tagging requirements, funding responsibilities, content-level detail, control, accountability and return, maintenance, training, procurement sources, and the implementation of active RFID to CONUS sustainment shipments.



## Site Analysis: BAGRAMW50-S, T76006120129, Bagram AF

For this month's analysis we looked at BAGRAMW50-S, Tag Docking Station T76006120129, Bagram AF Multiclass Supply Support Activity (SSA). Our focus was on the data quality of RFID tags being written by BAGRAMW50-S. Using the **Site Activity** query we looked at the tag writing workload of the SSA activity for an eleven-day period from 1-11 March 2011.

This site activity query identified 57 tags that were written during the period and were traveling through the logistics pipeline. The following findings are based on an analysis of these tags:

- By comparing the Consignee Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC) and the Point of Debarkation (POD) to the "Read" events of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag and/or Last Reported Interrogator Name, it was determined that 34 of the 57 tags reached their final destination. Because of transposed Consignee and Consignor DODAACs, limited or no Transportation Control Movements Document (TCMD) data, and blank or bad POD codes being used, we were unable to determine final destination arrival for the remaining 23 tags.
- Since the Consignee and Consignor DODAACs were transposed in 47 instances, the automated transportation



The **Consignor** is the unit sending the shipment and the **Consignee** is the unit receiving the gear. Try and remember the long sound of 'E' in the word "receive" is the same as in **Consignee**.

closeout was generated by the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal** as the tags left the shipping site rather than at arrival at final destination.

- Of the 57 tags, 56 contained valid Port of Embarkation Codes (POEs). One tag contained a POE that was improperly entered as 0A1 (ZERO ALPHA ONE), and it should have been OA1 (OSCAR ALPHA ONE). Twenty-seven of the 57 tags contained valid POD codes; however, 11 tags contained invalid POD codes, and 19 tags were left blank.
- Only 15 tags had sufficient content-level data. The remaining 42 tags contained no commodity data. Complete commodity data allows users more options for query searches and provides more complete data sharing with other ITV systems. The US Central Command (CENTCOM) requirement is "level six (VI)" content-level data.
- Using the Archive data selection on the portal, it was determined that 55 out of the 57 tags (96%) had been previously used in the last year.
- Registration page information (naming convention, point of contact information, latitude/longitude) was correct.
- Email was sent to the Site POC with guidance/information on consignee/consignor usage and where to find port codes.

**Editor's Note:** We publish these site analyses each month not to embarrass or single-out any particular activity but to point out common errors and shortcomings as well as excellence in writing RFID tags and pass them along as lessons-learned to the ITV Community.



### RF-ITV Global Help Desk (GHD)

**Toll Free:** 1 (800) 877-7925, **DSN:** Dial 94 plus (800) 877-7925,  
**Commercial:** (703) 579-2834

**AKO Instant Messenger Username:** help.rfitv

**Green Force Tracker/Lotus Sametime Group Name:** PEO EIS-PM J-AIT-GHD  
(4 AM – 9 PM EST)

**Email:** [help.rfitv@us.army.mil](mailto:help.rfitv@us.army.mil)

The RFID GHD should be contacted before any attempt to reach an FSE in your area.

If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter or if you have a noteworthy RF-ITV story, lesson-learned, or short article for publication in the newsletter, please submit to Jerry Rodgers, PM J-AIT, [jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil](mailto:jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil).

# The Regional Training Team's (RTT's) Tips and Tricks

## TIPS – what versions are you using?



The award of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID – III) Contract in December 2008, allowed for the migration from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) International Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) compliant hardware. The RF-ITV fixed read Infrastructure was upgraded to *dual mode* allowing ISO 18000-7 compliant reads as well as the ANSI reads. TIPS software was upgraded to be used with both ANSI INCITS 256 legacy tags and ISO 18000-7 compliant tags. These upgrades allow interoperability with multi-vendor ISO compliant readers and tags. Two ISO compliant software applications are the current versions of TIPS (Total Asset Visibility (TAV) In Processing Station) Read 4.3.1.4 and TIPS Write 4.3.0.5.

The recently released TIPS Read 4.3.1.4 (March 2011) is replacing TIPS Read 4.2.0.3. TIPS Read 4.3.1.4, when properly installed on a Field Data Unit (FDU) that communicates with a dual mode Interrogator, can read both ANSI and ISO tags and upload the data to the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**.

TIPS Write 4.3.0.5, released November 2010, replaced TIPS Write 4.1.1.7. TIPS Write 4.3.0.5, when properly installed on an FDU that communicates with the proper write device can write to both ANSI and ISO tags and upload the data to the **RF-ITV Tracking Portal**.

Don't have the current versions of TIPS yet? Not to worry—the **RF-ITV Global Help Desk** is here to assist you. Please see the contact information below to obtain the software request form.

Once you receive your software, the installation is simple and will replace your machine's current TIPS version. In addition, the Graphic User Interface (GUI) for the replacement versions is practically the same as the previous user friendly versions you are used to. Should you need further assistance, your local Field Service Engineer or the **RF-ITV Global Help Desk** can help.

RF-ITV Global Help Desk Software Request Form	
	
<a href="https://help.rfitv@us.army.mil">https://help.rfitv@us.army.mil</a>	
<b>Reason for Request</b>	
Requested because: <input type="text" value="Testing"/>	Requested by: <input type="text" value="Military Unit"/>
<small>If not Military or Government Agency see box below</small>	
Explain why you should be authorized to use this software: <input type="text"/>	
<b>Contact Information</b>	
Point of Contact Name: <input type="text"/>	Email Address: <input type="text"/>
Commercial Phone Number: <input type="text"/>	DSN Phone Number: <input type="text"/>
Address: <input type="text"/>	Mailing Address: <input type="text"/>
Base or Site Location: <input type="text"/>	COLCOM: <input type="text" value="NORTHCOM"/>
<b>Provide Unit or Agency you are supporting</b>	
Unit or Agency Name: <input type="text"/>	Unit or Agency Contact Name: <input type="text"/>
Unit or Agency Contact Phone: <input type="text"/>	Unit or Agency Location: <input type="text"/>
<b>Additional Information</b>	
Do you need training on this Software: <input type="text" value="Yes"/>	Do you have a CAC or ITV Account: <input type="text" value="Yes"/>
<small>This form is new; please feel free to make comments and suggestions for additional drop downs or points of failure. Please send it to us in two ways so we can test which way works best at <a href="https://help.rfitv@us.army.mil">https://help.rfitv@us.army.mil</a></small>	
<small>1) Save the file to your desk top and attach it to an email to us.</small>	
<small>2) Send it with the "Reply with Changes" in the tool bar above in word.</small>	
<small>In 2007  use the office button and go to Send Email as an attachment.</small>	

For more on ISO migration visit: [http://www.ait.army.mil/Technology/iso\\_migration.html](http://www.ait.army.mil/Technology/iso_migration.html)

For questions on ISO migration and to request TIPS software, contact the **RF-ITV Global Help Desk**:

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**Commercial:** (703) 579-2834

**Email:** [help.rfitv@us.army.mil](mailto:help.rfitv@us.army.mil)